

## Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2892

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, PU

SUBJ: GUINEA-BISSAU DELEGATION VIST TO USSR

1. SUMMARY. MAIN RESULT OF USSR VISIT BY GUINEA-BISSAU PARTY-GOVERNMENT DELEGATION (COMMUNIQUE IN PRAVDA, FEBRUARY 26) APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SIGNING OF FOUR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON TRADE, ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION, AND ON CIVIL AVIATION. ADDITIONAL AGREEMENT ON SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATION IN GUINEA-BISSAU, BROADENED EXCHANGES PROGRAM, AND SOVIET ASSISTANCE IN ENERGY, EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE ROUNDED OUT BILATERAL RESULTS OF TALKS. ON INTERNATIONAL SIDE AFRICAN AFFAIRS EVIDENTLY DOMINATED TALKS. COMMUNIQUE HAS STANDARD STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND EXPECTED CONDEMNATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA'S WHITE MINORITY REGIMES. IN SUM, VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE PRODUCED NO REAL SURPRISES BUT DOES SEEM TO HAVE MOVED SOVIET-GUINEA-BISSAU RELATIONSHIP SOMEWHAT FURTHER ALONG TOWARD REGULARIZATION AND AT LEAST POTENTIALLY TO HAVE PAVED THE WAY AN INCREASE IN SOVIETS' PRESENCE

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IN THIS NEWLY EMERGING AFRICAN STATE. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIETS GAVE THE GUINEA-BISSAU PARTY GOVERNMENT DELEGATION, HEADED BY CHIEF COMMISSAR MENDES, HIGH-LEVEL TREATMENT DURING SIX DAY STATE VISIT FEBRUARY 19-25. KOSYGIN AND CPSU POLITBURO CANDIDATE MEMBER PONOMAREV (RELATIONS WITH NON-COMMUNIST STATES) LED SOVIET SIDE IN TALKS. OTHER SOVIETS PARTICIPATING WERE I.V. ARKHIPOV, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS; S.A. SKACHKOV, CHAIMAN OF THE STATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS; FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV, AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE MANZHULO. GUINEA-BISSAU DELEGATION'S VISIT RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT PRESS COVERAGE AND WAS GENERALLY HANDLED WITH ALL THE PANOPLY CHARACTERISTIC OF SOVIET STATE VISITS. IN ADDITION TO MOSCOW THE DELEGATION VISITED LENINGRAD AND VOLGOGRAD, APPARENTLY ON PURELY SIGHTSEEING JUNKET.

3. MAIN RESULTS TO EMERGE FROM VISIT WERE ON BILATERAL SIDE. MUTUAL PLEDGES OF SUPPORT FOR STRENGTHENING SOVIET-GUINEA-BISSAU RELATIONSHIP STRESSED BY KOSYGIN IN DINNER SPEECH FEBRUARY 19 (PRAVDA, FEBRUAR 20) AND IN COMMUNIQUE WERE GIVEN CONCRETE FORM IN FUR MAIN AGREEMENTS AND SOVIT PLEDGES OF AID TO ASSIST GUINEA-BISSAU DEVELOPMENT. PARTIES SIGNED AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, A CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT, AND A FORMAL TRADE AGREEMENT. SOVIET SIDE AGREED TO PROVIDE GUINEA-BISSAU WITH ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION. SOVIETS ALSO REACHED AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A TRADE REPRESENTATION IN GUINEA-BISSAU. ON SEEMINGLY LESS FORMAL BASIS, PARTIS REACHED AGREEMENT ON BROADENING CONTACTS BETWEEN SOVIET AND GUINEA-BISSAU "SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS" AND DISCUSSED IMPORTANCE OF CONTACTS BETWEEN CPSU AND PAIGC.

4. COMMUNIQUE'S TREATMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TOPICS CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. PARTIES EXPRESSED GENERAL SUPPORT FOR DETENTE, AND GUINEA-BISSAU SIDE HEAPED PRAISE ON THE SOVIETS' DETERMINATION IN CARRYING OUT THE USSR'S "PEACE POLICY." TREATMENT OF AFRICAN TOPICS, TO CONFIDENTIAL

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WHICH THE MAJORITY BSRTH COMMUNIQUE'S INTERNATIONAL SECTION IS DEVOTED, EXPECTEDLY WELCOMED THE SUCCESS OF THE AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN THEIR STRUGGLE WITH "FASCISM AND COLONIALISM." PROTUGUESE-GUINEA--AGREEMENT ON CAPE VERDE ISLANDS IS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED AS "AN IMPORTANT SEPT IN THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLES OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE." COMMUNIQUE IS QKISING

ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. IT CALLS FOR THE "LIQUIDATION OF RACIST REGIMES" IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA.

5. COMMENT: MENDES VISIT, IT SEEMS, HAS ALLOWED SOVIET-GUINEA-BISSAU RELATIONSHIP TO BE FLESHED OUT WITH FORMAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WHICH SOVIETS SEEK AS INDICATING STABILITY AND PERMANENCE. SOVIETS ALSO HAVE NOW FORMALLY ESTABLISHED AN ON-GOING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WHICH SHOULD ALLOW THEM TO BROADEN THEIR BASE IN GUINEA-BISSAU. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, PUBLIC DOCUMENTS DO NOT SEEM TO INDICATE THAT MOSCOW IS CONTEMPLATING ANY MAJOR PUSH IN GUINEA-BISSAU FOR THE TIME BEING, AND SOVIET PLEDGES OF ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA-BUSSAU DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE GONE BEYOND SOVIETS NORMAL PACKAGE FOR AFRICAN STATES IN WHICH THEY HAVE A LIMITED INTEREST.

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